

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

Johannes j. Mons

PHN 16,657A

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STORING AUDIO-CENTERED INFORMATION BY A TABLE-OF-CONTENTS (TOC) MECHANISM AND ALSO BY A FILE-BASED ACCESS MECHANISM THROUGH A ROOT DIRECTORY, AND A UNITARY STORAGE MEDIUM CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Delete claims 1-9

Please add the following new claims:

- 1 10. A method comprising the steps of:
- 2 providing a unitary storage medium;
- 3 storing audio-centered information on the unitary storage
- 4 medium
- 5 storing on the unitary storage medium, a Table-of-Contents
- 6 (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of
- 7 various audio items on the medium, a highest level of the TOC
- 8 mechanism pointing to the audio items and a lowest level TOC file
- 9 points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items;
- 10 and

11 storing on the unitary storage medium, a file-based access  
12 mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing  
13 information; the root directory containing the highest level file  
14 of the TOC mechanism;

15 and wherein the audio information is accessible using either  
16 the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the root directory  
2 contains lower level directories that each pertain to a  
3 standardized audio format, thereby providing further access  
4 mechanism at respective different levels.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the root directory  
contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain  
their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a different respective  
standardized audio format.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the number of sub-TOCs is  
exactly equal to 2.

1 14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the respective audio  
2 formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-  
3 channel audio format.

1 15. A unitary medium produced by the method of Claim 10.

1 16. The medium of claim 15 wherein:  
2 the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file  
3 directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file;  
4 each directory uses a different respective standardized audio  
5 format; and

6 the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format  
7 and at least a multi-channel audio format.

1 17. A reader for an optical disc, comprising:

2 disc holding means;

3 optical reading means for producing a read signal from the  
4 optical disc;

5 disc driving means for moving the optical read means with  
6 respect to a track on the optical disc; and

7 access means for controlling the disc drive means for  
8 accessing information stored on the optical disc using access  
9 mechanisms of the disk, the access mechanisms including:

10 a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an  
11 actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a  
12 highest level of the TOC mechanism pointing to the audio items and  
13 a lowest level TOC file points immediately to the respective  
14 contents of the audio items; and

15 a file-based access mechanism including a root directory  
16 containing item localizing information; the root directory  
17 containing the highest level file of the TOC mechanism;

18 and wherein the audio information is accessible using either  
19 the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendment prior to examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 29, 2001